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## WOMAN'S WORLD.

ENCOURAGING PROGRESS MADE BY THE LOCAL COUNCILS OF WOMEN.

Japan's Awakening—Woman and Finance. Another Woman's Congress—Morals and the Ballot—A Chicago Experiment—Atlanta's Promise.

When Francis E. Willard, in her president's address at the national council of 1891, sketched the growth she hoped for the council and outlined the plan of local councils of women in all the cities and towns of the nation, some of us thought her more of a dreamer than a seer, but, as month after month brings word of the formation of new councils in various important cities it begins to look as if her words were indeed prophetic.

Some who have not watched the marvelous growth of interest in the council idea in its various developments may ask, "What is a local council of women and what is its work?"

Perhaps the best organized of the local councils is that of Minneapolis, which held a four days' congress to mark its second annual meeting. It divides its work into 11 departments. During the entire year it holds monthly meetings, which are well attended, and at which the papers presented for discussion compare favorably with the best productions in our current magazines. This council also makes a special point of the social reception of distinguished women visiting Minneapolis, and since in itself the council includes so many interests it is scarcely likely that any woman of note may not be classified under some one of its departments and thus become entitled to the social recognition which it is its pleasure to give, and which results in a mutual knowledge which cannot fail to be a gain both to the stranger within their gates and to the women of Minneapolis themselves.

In Indianapolis the council of women has been interesting itself and the city council in questions of sanitation, a line of effort in which women may find work to do in almost any of our American cities.

But, aside from their active work, the local councils must act as a great solvent of narrowness and prejudice, the prejudice against our neighbor which arises—as most of this sentiment does—from ignorance of our neighbor and his motive. When black and white, Christian and Jew, philanthropist and radical reformer, club woman and W. C. T. U. worker sit side by side and listen to and enter into friendly discussion as to what will best further the good of all their fellow citizens, an immense step in advance has been taken for women toward that freemasonry of sex which has been so helpful to men, and which women as yet understand so little.—American Woman's Journal.

### Japan's Awakening.

A silver stork 4 inches high was the souvenir given to the guests at the state banquet which terminated the ceremonies of the imperial silver wedding in Japan.

This was the occasion not only of royal festivities, but it marks in a way the approach of the Japanese women to social emancipation. It was designed to indicate the sovereign's desire that the usages which have hitherto regulated the domestic life of Japan should be so far amended as to establish a nearer approach to equality, if not an actual and thorough equality, between his male and female subjects. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the imperial marriage afforded a happy opportunity for this declaration, and for accompanying it with forms which could not be misapprehended. In ordinary national festivals the emperor stands alone as the central figure, and the observances prescribed, whatever they may be, are exclusively to his homage. In this instance the honors were not merely shared by the empress, but it was felt that they were in greater and worthier part addressed to her. Only twice before had she appeared with the sovereign in any public function, but now the emperor had resolved to show that the place of his wife was beside him and on his own level—not beneath him, nor at a distance, in the subservient attitude which custom assigns to the women of this country. In every respect the innovation was commendable and of excellent promise. Its results may or may not be immediately apparent, but a blow has been struck by the highest power in the land against an abuse and evil which could no longer be made consistent with the pretensions to civilization which the empire is constantly striving to vindicate.—Tokio Correspondent.

### Woman and Finance.

A Brooklyn young woman has been in the habit for several years of reading the market reports daily to her father. To make the occupation interesting to herself she sensibly asked questions, discussed situations and ended by becoming a shrewd critic of affairs. Her father admits with pride that some of his best investments were made upon her judgment and at her suggestion, and that more than once her sagacity averted a loss for him.

That, however, women have to acquire this financiering ability is evidenced by a recent remark of a well known capitalist and investor, a leading officer in one of the big insurance companies, to the effect that he has put a stop to a practice in which he at one time considerably indulged. This was the advising of women in their financial affairs. Women who were friends of his, or who brought letters from friends of his, came to him constantly asking his opinion on investments and transactions. He began by giving it as he would to a man, stating always that it was not infallible, merely the judgment of one mind, and deprecating responsibility for results. This qualification would be accepted at the time, but in the event of disaster to plans or steps he had advised he was frequently bitterly blamed. And now it is extremely difficult for a woman to get an opinion from him.



THE WORLD OF FASHION.

Draped tailor costume: a style much affected by the fashionable women of London and Paris. The skirt effect in this costume is something entirely new.

These two recitals, taken together, make an argument in favor of the growing effort of women to enlarge their knowledge of business affairs. The first story proves they are equal to acquiring it, and the second certainly attests how much they stand in need of it.—New York Times.

### Another Woman's Congress.

The California Midwinter International exposition has had one result in the formation of a Woman's Congress association, which is to hold its meeting this month, and which promises to be almost as brilliant and interesting as the woman's congress of the World's fair. The president of the board of managers is Mrs. Abby Cheney, who is prominent in musical art and was formerly president of the Century club. She is said to have great executive ability combined with the dignity and grace which made Mrs. Potter Palmer so admirable a presiding officer. She is the wife of John Vance Cheney, the poet.

On the board of managers are such women as Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, the noted kindergarten and president of the Golden Gate Normal Training school; Mrs. Edna Snell Poulson, another famous educator, and Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Stetson, the writer, sociologist and reformer.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall and Mrs. Hemet, the vice president of the woman's auxiliary of the World's fair, are among the speakers for May, and the board hopes to have Mrs. Potter Palmer deliver an address. The number of bright California women who will talk is legion. Among them are Margaret Collier Graham of Pasadena, a writer of short stories; Theodosia B. Shepherd of floricultural fame; Harriet M. Strong, on reform and social questions; Mrs. Sarah Pratt Carr, on the outlook of California literature, and Mrs. Mary F. McRoberts, who is well known in English political circles, on the legal status of women in different countries.—San Francisco Letter.

### Morals and the Ballot.

In my contact with such of my sex as I consider as belonging to a class of thoughtful women I think the suffrage topic is one that is gaining much ground and seriously dwelt upon as a matter of grave importance. Among my acquaintances I count a large number of women of means—widows and spinners, dwelling in towns located throughout the state, whose taxations contribute largely to the support of the places wherein they dwell and hold property. I think these women consider it not only unreasonable, but unjust, that they should not be allowed an active part in legislation. For my own part, I earnestly desire the privilege of the ballot, and when it is granted to women I shall be glad to avail myself of it and give the subject personal attention upon every question at least that affects the interests of my sex.

I believe that morals will be elevated by the association of women in legislation. When women are accorded the ballot, polling places will be located among better surroundings, kept in better condition, well ordered and supervised, that it may not be a disagreeable duty for them. The inborn chivalry of the masculine voters will secure these advantages for the opposite sex, even if consideration for their wives, mothers, daughters and sisters has not brought the subject to mind. Men of education, broad minded, high principled and generous hearted, are not averse to women being accorded the ballot, nor are they anxious or fearful that the privilege will in any degree conflict with the established conditions of social life.—Mrs. Russell Sage.

### A Chicago Experiment.

The Domestic Science association has just organized at Chicago. It will undertake to train women in "the lost arts of domesticity." It is hoped that laundry work will not be omitted from the programme, which includes cooking, general housekeeping, sewing, home nursing and physical culture. The object of the association as given in the charter is to promote and develop the social and industrial education of girls

and women and to place food at cost within reach of the poor. One of the greatest needs in the city, say the ladies, are means of amusement for young women away from home. This department will be in charge of Miss Jessie Patton, who will conduct the classes in physical culture and organize dramatic corps among the girls of the club, entertainments being given in the clubhouse, which contains an auditorium capable of holding 200 people. Graduates of the Cook county hospital will have charge of the home nursing department, which will include a knowledge of simple remedies in the family and ready aid to the injured. Well known society ladies who have had experience in training servants will take charge of the housekeeping department. The idea is to develop a system that will bear the same relation to the educational world for the training of girls that the kindergarten does for children. The association will shortly erect a handsome St. Andrew's stand at the foot of the elevated railroad stairs on Congress street, Cooper's store, where penny meals will be dispensed.—Chicago Letter.

### Atlanta's Promise.

The New York World having expressed the hope that the next national woman suffrage convention would receive fair treatment at Atlanta, where it is to meet in 1895, the Atlanta Constitution says:

It is unnecessary for our contemporary to suggest to Atlanta or any other southern city that these ladies deserve fair treatment. Our people recognize the fact that among the women who advocate suffrage for their sex are many of the best and brightest mothers, wives and daughters in America. The convention will be heartily welcomed to Atlanta, and the members will be hospitably entertained, while it goes without saying that our citizens will take a deep interest in their meetings.

It is true that the south has not encouraged the woman suffrage movement, but it is also true that this section has led all others in many lines of female advancement. The first female college in the world started here in Georgia, and our state has taken the lead in the matter of giving married women their property rights as independent persons. With such a record it is safe to say that when the women of the United States come here to seriously discuss the suffrage question as it affects them, they will receive not only fair but courteous and friendly treatment.

### A Moneyless Princess.

A fresh story of a princess comes from Vienna. Crown Princess Stephanie and her little daughter, the Princess Elizabeth, were on a country excursion and stopped to buy some milk and fruit at a country inn. Suddenly they remembered that they had no money in their pockets, and on learning this the prudent landlady refused to trust them, although the Princess Elizabeth assured her, with flashing eyes, that they were "honest people."

### Stand by Each Other.

Until women stand by women and show their support in all the womanliness of their nature, no lasting result for equality and suffrage can be obtained. Let women uphold each other for the right as men do each other for either right or wrong, and in the end the steadfastness of their purpose must accomplish the noble aim in view.—Woman.

### Miss Ina D. Coolbrith.

Miss Ina D. Coolbrith was a notable guest at the Authors' club reception a few weeks ago. Miss Coolbrith, who is a Californian, is well known as a writer of graceful and pleasing verse. She has already received much attention at the hands of New York's "literary set," being a young woman of marked personal charm as well as a poet.—America.

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